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# Messages From the Department of Education

August 2014

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## ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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### **A. Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternative Assessment Consortium.**

During the past few months representatives from the DOE and a group of NH Alt Assessment Stakeholders (Special Education Directors, teachers, private providers and partners) came together to learn more about our options in joining a state-led alternate assessment consortium. The decision to review these options came from feedback and requests we received from parents and educators to look at other options. There were two identified consortiums focused on building a new generation of assessments for students with the most significant cognitive impairments: Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC). The group was presented with information from both consortiums, researched publically available information regarding the assessments designed by DLM and NCSC's, talked with other state members of each consortium and reviewed the feedback we received from a posted survey. The results of this research led to the decision for the DOE to move forward with DLM as its partner (pending Governor and Council approval) for the development and implementation of the state's next alternate assessment aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Over the next several weeks we will be disseminating additional information about our partnership with DLM and laying out a timeline for the transition. We will be developing processes for sharing technical advisory information and drafting procedures for accessing professional learning opportunities. Keep an eye on the DOE's Alternative Assessment Web site for new information and links - [www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/alt\\_assess](http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/alt_assess). In the meantime, and throughout the transition, please visit the DLM Web site at <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/>.

Contact: Gail Taylor, (603) 271-8266, [Gail.Taylor@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Gail.Taylor@doe.nh.gov)

### **B. Smarter Balanced**

More than 4.2 million students across the country – 11,000 students in New Hampshire – in grades 3-8 and 11 participated in the Smarter Balanced Field Test in the Spring. The Field Test was a practice run of the state's new assessment system that helped ensure assessment questions are accurate and fair for all students. It also gave teachers and schools a chance to gauge their readiness in advance of the first operational assessment in spring 2015. Administered online, the Field Test closely resembled the summative assessment that students will participate in during the spring of 2015. Most students completed a test in one subject - either English language arts/literacy or mathematics - with over 21,000 assessments completed in New Hampshire. While the Smarter Balanced assessment is untimed, each subject area is expected to take 2.5 to 4 hours to complete and is administered over multiple days. Because questions may be revised or dropped after the Field Test, students who participated in the Field Test will not receive scores.

The Field Test is an essential step in the assessment development. It serves several important purposes:

- Quality Assurance: The Field Test evaluates the performance of more than 19,000 assessment items and performance tasks—as well as the performance of the online testing system. For test developers, the Field Test shows which questions work well

and which ones need to be improved so that they contribute to a fair and accurate assessment of student achievement.

- **Achievement Standards:** Data from the Field Test will allow Smarter Balanced to set preliminary achievement standards in fall 2014. These achievement standards will indicate whether or not students are on track to achieve college and career readiness in English language arts/literacy and mathematics.
- **Test Administration:** For member states, the Field Test provides an opportunity to make sure technology systems and administration logistics are ready for implementation of the assessment system in the 2014-15 school year.

Smarter Balanced states are committed to producing assessments that are accurate and fair for all students. The Consortium has developed usability, accessibility, and accommodation features to ensure that students have a positive and productive assessment experience that generates fair and accurate estimates of each student's achievement. All usability, accessibility and accommodation features were available for students in the Field Test, consistent with the Smarter Balanced *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodation Guidelines* ([http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced\\_Guidelines\\_091113.pdf](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_091113.pdf)). Further, students with disabilities, English language learners, and English language learners with disabilities are included among Field Test participants. Students took great advantage of these tools and resources during the Field Test, using accessibility and accommodation features in one-third of test sessions.

The Field Test represents one of the final stages in a lengthy development process to ensure that the Smarter Balanced Assessment System measures the depth and breadth of the Common Core State Standards. Over the past two years, working with K-12 teachers and higher education faculty, Smarter Balanced developed, reviewed, and tested thousands of assessment items and performance tasks. In 2013, Smarter Balanced conducted a Pilot Test of a smaller number of assessment items in a sample of schools across the country. Information from the Pilot Test informed the development of additional assessment items and performance tasks, accessibility options and accommodations, and the design of the test interface.

For more information on the Field Test, please go to the following report:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Field-Test-Report.pdf>.

- **Achievement Levels**

Information from the Field Test will be used this fall to establish achievement levels for the assessment system. Achievement level setting is the process for establishing one or more cut scores on an assessment, making it possible to create categories of performance. If you would like to be engaged in the achievement level setting process, please go to the Smarter Balanced Web site to learn more: ([www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-levels](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-levels)).

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844, [Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov)

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## CERTIFICATION

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### A. Course and Class Assignments for HQT

The Educator Information System (EIS) will be the source for New Hampshire's HQT data for the 2013-2014 school year. This is part of New Hampshire's annual Title II-A federal reporting. Please check your district's HQT status in EIS and work to get the number of classes taught by non-HQT educators to zero. Non-HQT classes in EIS are often the result of errors in naming assignments in the course submissions. In some cases there should be a change in teaching assignments. Please call if you need assistance in reconciling your educator HQT status.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, [Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov)

### B. Praxis Exams

The Core Academic Skills for Educators assessment has *replaced* the Praxis I or PPST. Test #5751 is the number for the CORE combination test. There are three sub-tests in Mathematics, Reading and Writing that may be taken separately.

The NH State Board of Education recently approved the passing scores for new Praxis exams in Middle School Science, the Education of Young Children, and a new Elementary Education: Multi-subject test. Please be certain to have your educators check the **New Hampshire** information on the ETS Web site ([www.ets.org/praxis/nh/requirements](http://www.ets.org/praxis/nh/requirements)) before they choose to take a test. ETS may still be offering tests in other parts of the country that NH has dropped. Students need to find the correct test number for New Hampshire to be certain they take the right test. The Department of Education is no longer creating a document of required tests so outdated Praxis memos should be discarded. Tests are updated regularly on the ETS Web site and the test numbers change.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, [Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov)

### C. NH Foundations of Reading Test

Effective July 1, 2014, the NH Foundations of reading assessment will be required for the following endorsements: Elementary Education K-6 and K-8, Early Childhood Education, Reading and Writing Teacher, and Reading and Writing Specialist. This test is offered by Pearson Education, **not ETS**. The Web site below is unique to this test. Candidates won't find information about the test on the ETS Web site. This test may also be used to demonstrate HQT in the content area of Reading. For information about the test go to [www.nh.nesinc.com](http://www.nh.nesinc.com).

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, [Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov)

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## DATA

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### A. Critical Shortage Survey for 2014-2015

Each year the Department of Education conducts a survey to determine which endorsements should be included on the Critical Shortage List. This list is used for the purpose of determining eligibility for Alternative IV. It is also submitted to the federal government to be used for student loan deferment determination. The survey requests information for both vacancies and positions that were difficult to fill as of Friday, August 15, 2014. It will be

available using the Electronic Submission System (ESS) accessible by signing on to the myNHDOE Single Sign On System (<https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE>). There will be no spreadsheets to e-mail or FAX back to the NH Department of Education. The form should be completed by Friday, August 22, 2014.

Contact: Joe Pipinias, (603) 271-4862, [Joe.Pipinias@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Joe.Pipinias@doe.nh.gov)

## **B. i4see**

### **a. End Of Year (EOY) Data Collection**

Thank you to all districts that have uploaded their end of year data and are resolving their anomalies. The EOY schedule remains as follows:

- August 1st – All state anomalies MUST be resolved and District Reports confirmed so that Superintendents can “certify” the following EOY submissions: EOY Enrollment, EOY Academic, and Sped Public. Superintendents should print, complete, sign and send the following three reports AFTER they have certified the EOY Enrollment: “Tuition Report Receiving,” “Nonpublic 13-14 Special Education Students (A13N),” and “Nonpublic 13-14 Non-Special Education Students (A13 Other)” reports
- August 1st-October 31st – The DOE will review all submissions and contact schools with questions
- November 1st – Superintendents should print, sign, and submit remaining end of year reports (Determination Sign Off and ADM Report.)

### **b. NEW. Incoming Student Roster Submission**

This replaces the NECAP Fall submission. It includes all students who will be attending your schools in the Fall:

- This submission is due August 8th. It should include ALL grades PK-12 for populating Performance Plus, Early Warning System, and Direct Certification of F&N students
- Please be sure the submission contains the correct grade for the students entering in the Fall

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, [Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov)

## **C. PerformancePLUS**

### **a. Kick-Start Your Data Work for the 2014-15 School Year**

Free professional development for next year. Grab those late August, September and October days while schedules are open or schedule in advance for the rest of the year. Invite us in to:

- Help define the role of your district, school and grade level data teams
- Introduce protocols to look at data
- Train members to use PerformancePLUS and other state tools to look at data
- Support teams in local assessment development, administration and analysis of data
- Train intervention teams to use P+ to house and analyze individual student data
- To arrange for training, contact Irene Koffink - [Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov)

**b. Access Local Data More Efficiently**

Assessment frameworks for the following local assessments exist and can be copied into your district's PerformancePLUS site:

- Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark System
- DRA
- Words Their Way
- Lucy Calkins Writing Rubrics
- Foundations
- PALS

**c. Using the STAR Assessment?**

STAR data is being automatically uploaded into PerformancePLUS. To arrange for your STAR data to be uploaded:

- E-mail [support@renlearn.com](mailto:support@renlearn.com) and request to share your data with NHDOE
- Add your SASIDs to the Renaissance system so that the data can be uploaded to Performance Plus: Click on the REPORTS link in Renaissance Place to get a CSV file where you can enter students' SASIDs. Once you do that, send it back to the Renaissance tech department and they will update their site so those fields will be in the extract.
- Next, read the document at this link:  
<http://nh.eduplanet21.com/community/analyzing-student-data-network/resource/1917/sharing-your-star-assessments-to-the-nhdoe-and-performance-plus/>

**d. Save the Date: North Country Data Conference, October 10, 2014**

Details to follow in early September

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, [Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov)

**D. School Safety Data Collection**

The School Safety Data Collection for school year 2013-2014 was released on June 4th. This data collection should have been completed by public school principals and certified by the superintendents after the last day of school. After the data is saved, please notify your superintendent that it is complete. There is no button to send the data collection to the superintendent, just save and let the superintendent know that it is complete. The superintendent will review the completed data collections and certify them on-line. The due date was **Friday, July 11, 2014. If these data collections have not been completed, they are past due.** Please remember that submission of this data is required by RSA 193-E:3, Delivery of an Adequate Education.

**Please Note:** As of 7/15/14 the school year in the upper right corner of the Education Statistics System (ESS) will need to be changed to School Year 2013-2014 in order to view the current School Safety Data Collection. Also, there is no need to send paper copies. The print version of the data collection has a space for signatures in case the school or SAU keeps a paper copy on file.

Contact: Gretchen Tetreault, (603) 271-5874, [Gretchen.Tetreault@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Gretchen.Tetreault@doe.nh.gov)



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## GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

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### A. Equipment Grants

USDA is offering Equipment Grants through the Bureau of Nutrition Programs and Services. The funds will be awarded through a competitive grant process and are available to schools that meet the following conditions: 1) a Free and Reduced percentage of over 50% and 2) those schools that did not benefit from funds received previously for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or the 2010 NSLP Equipment grants. The application can be found at: [heducation.nh.gov/program/nutrition/index.htm](http://heducation.nh.gov/program/nutrition/index.htm).

Contact: Cheri White, (603) 271-3646, [Cheri.White@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Cheri.White@doe.nh.gov)

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## INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

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### A. Quality Performance Assessment

The New Hampshire Performance Assessment Network cohorts for 2014 – 2015 launched their year of professional development with a two-day conference, July 22 and 23, led by the Center for Collaborative Education (CCE), with additional training by Karin Hess of the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA). The NH Performance Assessment Network is a multi-year initiative that engages New Hampshire's school districts in building and implementing valid and reliable performance assessments aligned to NH state and local competencies. Performance assessments are multi-step assignment tasks with clear criteria, expectations, and processes which measure how well a student transfers knowledge and applies complex skills to create or refine an original product. To date, over 45 New Hampshire schools have engaged in this professional development. For more information go to [www.education.nh.gov/assessment-systems/index.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/assessment-systems/index.htm) or contact Laurie Gagnon, CCE, at [lgagnon@ccebos.org](mailto:lgagnon@ccebos.org).

- **Performance Assessment for Competency Education**

As a part of this work, the NH DOE is developing a state-wide performance assessment system that will balance local control with state-wide accountability and comparability. This system, the Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) option, will build on New Hampshire's competency work, including the development of statewide college and career ready competencies ([www.education.nh.gov/innovations/hs\\_redesign/competencies.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/innovations/hs_redesign/competencies.htm)), and will be one component of the NH student assessment system. PACE will include common performance tasks that have high technical quality, locally designed performance tasks with guidelines for ensuring high technical quality, regional scoring sessions and local district peer review audits to ensure sound accountability systems and high inter-rater reliability, a web-based bank of local and common performance tasks, and a regional support network for districts and schools. As an early step in this process, the PACE option is being piloted by a group of self-selected school districts. The launch for the PACE effort was held on July 21, 2014. School districts piloting PACE this year are Epping, Rochester, and Sanborn. Districts participating in a planning process this year to implement next year are Pittsfield, Seacoast Charter, and Souhegan.

Contact: Paul K. Leather, (603) 271-3801, [Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov)

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### A. Innovation in Education Conference

Please save the date, October 3, 2014, for the DOE statewide Innovation in Education Conference to be held at SERESC. This is an all-day event that brings the education community together to explore the latest in innovative teaching, learning, assessment and leadership practice.

Contact: Paul K. Leather, (603) 271-3801, [Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov)

### B. NH Ed Tech Symposium

This is a highly engaging day-long professional development in learning technology resources and strategies for NH educators, teacher educators and association leaders. This symposium will take place at St. Anselm College, Institute on Politics, Manchester NH, from 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on August 21, 2014. Registration is free. To register or for more information go to <http://nhedtech.eventzilla.net>.

Contact: Bob McLaughlin, (603) 271-2634, [Robert.Mclaughlin@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Robert.Mclaughlin@doe.nh.gov)

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## DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATES

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**Ginny Clifford** has been promoted to the Administrator for the Bureau of Credentialing. Ginny brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this position. She can be reached at [Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov).

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## RESOURCES

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### A. New Hampshire Arts Learning Network

The New Hampshire Arts Learning Network is a Web site and collaborative of individuals, organizations, and groups with a common interest in arts education, working to support quality arts learning for all students in New Hampshire by sharing information, resources, and services. It is about connecting people, places and ideas so that all our students have access to the arts. This Web site is a place to share information, resources, and services; find out about arts education news and events; learn about federal and state policy and how local education agencies fulfill policy requirements; and access arts education advocacy tools and ideas. Arts educators, parents, teachers and school administrators are invited to submit arts projects and spotlights. The Web site features summer arts camps, NH arts education policy and information on the newly proposed national Arts Standards. Lead partners include the NH Department of Education, the NH State Council on the Arts, and the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire. To join or learn more visit: [www.nhartslearningnetwork.org](http://www.nhartslearningnetwork.org) or contact Catherine O'Brian, NH State Council on the Arts, [catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov).



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**OTHER**

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**Early Childhood Special Education Assistive Technology (EC-SEAT) Project**

The University of New Hampshire Department of Education is seeking scholars for the EC-SEAT project. EC-SEAT is supported through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to address the national shortage of special education teachers. This project prepares special education teachers of young children with an expertise in assistive technology. This exciting interdisciplinary curriculum combines expertise in special education with assistive technology and hands-on learning in community settings. EC-SEAT partners with local schools and agencies to integrate the iPad as a teaching tool with young children. EC-SEAT Scholars receive: \$20,000 educational award, an iPad for coursework and teaching, M.Ed. in Early Childhood Special Needs Option, Early Childhood Special Education teacher certification, Graduate Certificate in Assistive Technology, Assistive Technology and Professional (ATP) certification eligibility. Scholars commit to working in the field two years for every year of funding. Typical service obligation is 4 years. For more information go to <http://iod.unh.edu/Academics/early-childhood.aspx>.

**Take the Teacher Challenge**

The Center for Science Teaching and Learning (CSTL) and Dow have come together to support STEM education in our schools. STEM education is absolutely vital for our children and our future. We need to encourage children to pursue science, technology, engineering and math related fields. Our real challenge lies in how to achieve our goal of improving STEM education. Teachers of all fields are invited to submit their ideas for increasing STEM education in the classroom. The Fall Teacher Challenge will begin on August 4, 2014 and the deadline for all submissions is October 31, 2014. The top 50 entries will earn a \$1,000 grant. Visit [www.dow.com/company/citizenship/stem/stem-form.htm](http://www.dow.com/company/citizenship/stem/stem-form.htm) to submit an entry.

**The Arts as Inspiration! for Learning \* Teaching \* Making \* Living:**

The N.H. State Council on the Arts invites all educators, parents, teaching artists, and creative youth development leaders to the New Hampshire 2014 Fall Arts Education Conference, October 31st – November 2nd at the Barbara Harris Conference Center in Greenfield, NH. Features include keynote speakers and guest artists; a special visit to Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center with workshops on Inclusion, Universal Design, Adaptive Dance, Music Assisted Technologies and Photography; workshops on integrated arts, and in all arts disciplines; panels; and opportunities to network and share “Spotlighted Arts Learning Models” with a focus on creativity and innovation. For more information contact Catherine O’Brian, Arts Education Coordinator, NH State Council on the Arts, [catherine.r.obrian@dcn.nh.gov](mailto:catherine.r.obrian@dcn.nh.gov), (603) 271-0795 or visit: [www.nh.gov/nharts](http://www.nh.gov/nharts) or [www.aannh.org](http://www.aannh.org).

**Google Seminar for Educators**

Tools for the Digital Age – A Seminar for Educators with Google will be on September 23rd from 4:30-7pm at UNH Manchester (400 Commercial Street – Manchester). The seminar is free for all K-12 educators, education technologists and school administrators. Google’s education team will introduce and demonstrate new educational tools and resources that teachers can use to enhance their teaching and engage learners such as Connected Classrooms, Google Maps for Education, Google Cultural Institute, Constitute, and Hangouts.

Discussion will center around how educators can best use the latest digital tools in their classrooms, how teachers can connect to resources around the world using Google products, and which tools are most effective at engaging learners. For more information go to [www.wacnh.org](http://www.wacnh.org).

### **Nursing Continuing Education**

This Fall the NHTI, Concord's Community College, nursing continuing education department, is offering three courses geared for school nurses and other school personnel who deal with medical records of students.

- FERPA vs. HIPAA - What every healthcare provider should know regarding confidentiality when dealing with health records of primary and secondary school age youth. September 20th, 8:30 a.m. - noon
- Who's Calling the Shots? The ABC's of Immunizations. October 18th, 8:30 a.m. - noon
- School Based Electronic Health Records: What to look for, what to do, and what not to do. October 25th, 8:30 a.m.- noon

To register or for more information go to [www.nhti.edu/community-visitors/business-industry-training/nursing-continuing-education/nursing-continuing](http://www.nhti.edu/community-visitors/business-industry-training/nursing-continuing-education/nursing-continuing) and scroll down to *School Nurses & Pediatric Health Providers*.

### **Barry Camp Wild Game Culinary Adventure**

Registration is open for the Barry Camp Wild Game Culinary Adventure, a weekend exploring wild game preparation and cooking to be held at Barry Conservation Camp in Milan, N.H., September 26-28, 2014. Participants will get hands-on instruction and practice dressing wild game, cutting meat, planning game menus, and preparing wild game for cooking. The event is open to men and women age 18 and older. A registration fee of \$150 includes meals, instruction and rustic lodging. All proceeds benefit the Barry Camp Fund. To register or for more information go to [www.huntnh.com/barrycamp/game\\_weekend.html](http://www.huntnh.com/barrycamp/game_weekend.html) or call (603) 271-3211.